

Overcoming Barriers to Community

I love Jesus, I just don't care too much for you

The true nature of community is a common relationship with Jesus

1Jn 1:3 ESV that which we have seen and heard **we proclaim** also to you, **so that you too may have fellowship with us**; and indeed **our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.**

BOTH WERE DRAWN TO JESUS -Luk 7:36-50 ESV One of **the Pharisees asked him to eat with him**, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. 37 And behold, **a woman of the city, who was a sinner**, when **she learned that he was reclining at table** in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, 38 and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.

WHAT DID THE PHARISEE SEE? [SLIDE] 39 Now **when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this**, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and **what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.**"

[SLIDE] 40 And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." 41 "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 When they could not pay, he canceled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he canceled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly."

WHAT DID JESUS WANT HIM TO SEE? [SLIDE] 44 Then turning toward the woman he said to **Simon, "Do you see this woman?"** I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. **47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven--for she loved much.** But he who is forgiven little, loves little."

[SLIDE] 48 And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" 50 And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Other Examples to Barriers to Community

- **WHAT DID THE DISCIPLES SEE? Woman at the Well John 4** "How is it that you, a **Jew**, ask for a drink from me, **a woman of Samaria?**" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)...His disciples **marveled that he was talking with a woman**
- **WHAT DID THE JEWISH LEADERS SEE? Peter and Cornelius Acts 10 & 11** "You yourselves know how **unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit** anyone of another nation...the circumcision party **criticized him**, saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them."
- **WHAT DID THE CHURCH LEADERS SEE? Rich vs Poor Jas 2** if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in - and you give the rich the best seat
- **WHAT DID THE PHARISEE SEE? Sinner and Saint Luk 18** two men praying in the temple "I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector."

When we proclaim Jesus we are inviting people into Community

- Embrace those who are different
- See others as He sees them
- What are the barriers in my heart?